

Marshfield Energy and Climate Change Committee  
Notes of 1/14/08 Meeting  
RIP

Attending: Anne Miller, Lawrence Black, Rich Phillips, Johanna Miller

Guest: Paul Markowitz from Sierra Club

Open Meeting: 5:35 PM, Adjourn: 7:15 PM

Discussion:

- 1) Paul is developing a program for the Vermont Sierra Club to assist local energy committees and wants to know how they can help us. Johanna also is looking for that guidance from us. It was suggested that Johanna could help the most by working with Hillary on developing a website focused on provide energy reduction and alternative energy information in a form understandable to and useable by homeowners in making their improvement decisions. This could be the VELCAN website with links to it from the Town website or it could be a more complete Town website with appropriately selected links to provide the intended type and quality of information specifically for homeowners.

Throughout the meeting Paul picked up on several actions he could take to assist us. He will look into the possible availability of assistance on street light conversions from Efficiency Vermont. He will also contact the Vermont Energy Education Program? about a possible approach to incorporating more energy issues at Twinfield (Paul---I can't remember the other items you are checking on)

- 2) Anne has the bio-diesel pros and cons document nearly complete. She will print it and deliver a copy to Rich who will scan it and deliver it electronically to members, Johanna and Paul for comment. Rich will draft an article for the town meeting warning and meet with the Selectboard to see if they will put it on the warning. Talking with Selectperson John Warshow after the meeting, the budget already involves a major expansion because of fuel, insurance etc., so it really is a difficult time to approach the townspeople for an additional increase for biodiesel. The article is written below.

“To see if the town will authorize the Selectboard to purchase bio-diesel fuel for municipal vehicles provided the increased cost of such fuel does not exceed that of normal petroleum diesel by more than \$0.30 per gallon.”

- 3) Project Updates:
  - a. Andy and Rich have toured the Village wastewater and water supply facilities. At the wastewater plant, we suggested changing the 30-gallon electric water heater to a small on-demand heater for hand washing. At the water supply facilities we will look into reducing the

blower speed and power draw for the radon treatment unit and the possibility of an in-pipe turbine for power generation from the 500-foot drop to the Village. We are waiting for responses from GMP to questions we have posed about upgrading the 24 streetlights and possibly using timers to such off the lights late night and early morning.

We will be touring the OSC and highway garage next.

- b. The lamp project is going well with over 1000 lamps sold through Plainfield Hardware.
  - c. The survey is moving along slowly. Getting them returned is the biggest problem and various methods are being tried. Some volunteers are putting in a lot of time. We would like now to finish by or at town meeting.
- 4) Rich prepared a report for the town report and passed it around for reading by committee members
  - 5) Rich developed a letter to our Congresspersons suggesting: 1) that earmarks be eliminated for one year and the funds normally appropriated for the earmarks be provided to the states to be used by residents for energy reduction and alternative energy projects in their homes. And 2) that funds be diverted from subsidies for corn to ethanol conversion to support the finalization of the technology for burning switch-grass pellets for space heating. Lawrence read and agreed with the letter, Anne will read it and let me know any comments. Andy has read the letter. Rich will send this week signing as Chair of the Committee.
  - 6) We discussed whether we should include Twinfield in our municipal facilities evaluation considering their heavy use of outdoor lighting and the likely issues of drafty rooms etc. We decided not to pursue Twinfield at this time because of our current workload. We also discussed the need to work with the school to figure out what energy issues are now covered in the curriculum and hopefully to expand on this coverage next year. Paul suggested that the energy use tracking form we have passed out with the survey might be a good tool to engage students. Rich suggested we might want to make "Energy Issues in School" at separate project and try to get one or more parents to help lead that initiative. Rich will meet with Owen to view the pellet boiler and introduce the potential curriculum initiative the possible energy review in the future.
  - 7) We discussed the possibility of a table and focus on energy at town meeting, having an Energy Day in Marshfield where interested people could visit homeowners who have already implemented such concepts as solar voltaic panels, solar domestic hot water, passive solar, off-grid homes, small hydro and small wind if we can find any, wintertime unheated cloths drying, old home complete successful retrofits for energy conservation, etc. We also discussed

sponsoring a weatherization workshop locally. Plans for these initiatives were not set. We will discuss them more completely and decide on them at the next meeting on February 11, 2008. We could use help on these initiatives from Johanna and Paul and probably some grant funds from NEGREF.